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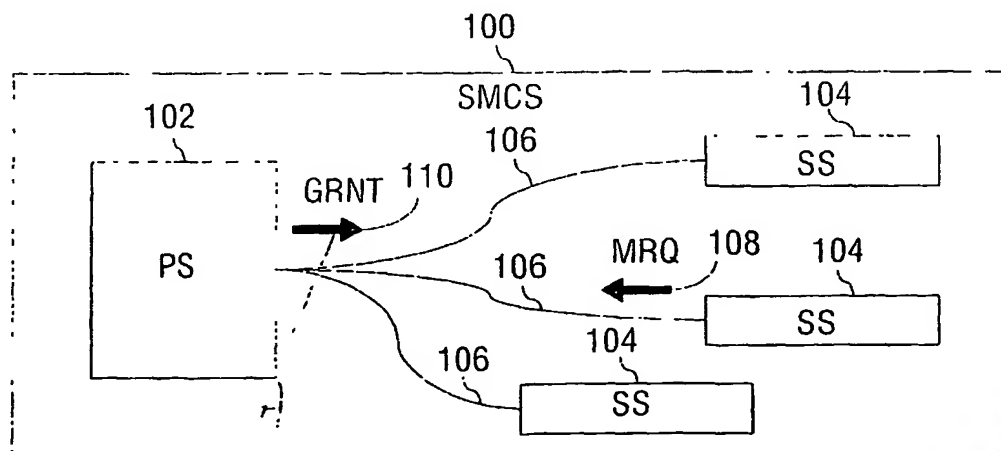
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ACCESS REQUESTS MERGING IN A SHARED MEDIUM COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In a shared medium communication system (100), a common measure for avoiding collisions of application data is a request grant mechanism. Secondary stations (104) contending for upstream bandwidth send requests on a shared medium (106) that are each answered by a grant (110) from the primary station (102). The efficiency of such a system can be improved if at least two access requests are merged into a multi-request (108).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X          | LELIGOU H-C ET AL: "Hardware implementation of multimedia driven HFC MAC protocol".<br>10TH MEDITERRANEAN ELECTROTECHNICAL CONFERENCE 2000,<br>vol. 1, 29 May 2000 (2000-05-29), pages 273-276, XP010518871 | 13                    |
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| A          | EP 0 503 212 A (IBM)<br>16 September 1992 (1992-09-16)<br>abstract<br>claim 1   | 1-13                  |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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